

**PASSIFLORA CHLORINA A NEW SPECIES OF SUBGENUS ASTROPHEA
(PASSIFLORACEAE) FROM THE CERRADO VEGETATION OF BRAZIL**

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ABSTRACT

During the course of a taxonomic revision of *Passiflora* subgenus *Astrophea* (Passifloraceae) a new species was found from the cerrado vegetation of the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. *Passiflora chlorina* most closely resembles *P. sclerophylla* which is known from collections made on the sandstone tepuis of Venezuela and Guyana.

KEY WORDS: Passifloraceae, *Passiflora*, systematics, Neotropics.

Passiflora chlorina L. Escobar, sp. nov. TYPE: BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: ca 17 km SW of the Minas Gerais-Bahia state border along Highway BR-116, 30 Mar 1976, *Davidse et al. 11605* (HOLOTYPE: MO!).

P. sclerophyllae Harms similis sed nectariis foliaribus infra laminam in paginis adaxialibus vel lateralibus petiolorum, stipitibus florum brevioribus, et forma filamentorum coronae differt.

Lianas with concentric rings of secondary wood and stout tendrils. Plants pubescent with straight to curved yellow-green trichomes ca 0.1 mm long, the adaxial surface of leaves and inner flower parts glabrous. Young stems with smooth, dark red-black, flaking bark. Leaf blades obovate to elliptic, 3.8-5.7 cm long, 2.3-3.5 cm wide, rounded and retuse at apex, mostly acute at base, entire at margins, stiffly coriaceous, lustrous on adaxial surface, with scattered trichomes on mid vein, drying reddish brown; lateral veins 5-7, with expanded fine veins forming an incrassate reticulum on abaxial surface; petioles 8.5-11.0 mm long, 1.1-1.2 mm diam, with 2, paired, subspherical, bordered nectaries 1.5-2.0 mm diam below blade on adaxial or lateral surfaces; stipules triangular, ca 3 mm long, ca 1.2 mm wide at base, deciduous.

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Peduncles stout, solitary in leaf axil, 2.8-7.0 mm long, 1.1-1.5 mm diam; bracts triangular, ca 1 mm long, ca 0.5 mm wide, reddish. Flowers narrowly campanulate, ca 3 cm long, 2.0-2.5 cm diam, white; flower stipe stout, 4-5 mm long, 1.1-1.2 mm diam; hypanthium campanulate, 8-9 mm long, 3.2-3.5 mm wide at base, ca 6 mm wide at apex; sepals oblong, 18-20 mm long, 4.3-5.0 mm wide, subcoriaceous; petals subequal to sepals, membranaceous; corona in 2 series, at apex of hypanthium, the outer ca 9 mm long, ca 1 mm wide at base, abruptly widening ca 2.5 mm from apex to 1.5 mm, then tapering to blunt apex; the second series linear, ca 3 mm long, ca 0.2 mm wide, bent to ca 45 degree angle in upper 1/3; operculum erect, arising ca 3 mm from base of hypanthium, ca 3 mm long, composed of fleshy, papillose filaments; ovary oblong, ca 3.5 mm long, ca 2 mm wide, 12 ribbed, densely pubescent, with straight, tan trichomes; styles ca 2.3 mm long, ca 0.6 mm diam, pubescent ca 2/3 their length from base. Fruits unknown.

Passiflora chlorina is only known from the type collection in cerrado vegetation of Brazil, on the border of the States of Minas Gerais and Bahia, at 950 meters elevation. It is most similar to *P. sclerophylla* Harms, by virtue of the stiffly coriaceous leaves with thickened fine veins of the abaxial surface forming an incrassate reticulum. It is distinguished from *P. sclerophylla* by the placement of the foliar nectaries below the blade on the adaxial or lateral surfaces of the petioles, the shorter flower stipe and the shape of the coronal filaments. The specific epithet refers to the yellow green color of the pubescence, which is especially noteworthy on the flowers.

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